By: Minjarez H.B. No. 1608

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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- 2 relating to creating a pilot program to provide summer internships
 3 for foster children.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
- 5 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 264, Family Code, is 6 amended by adding Section 264.1251 to read as follows:
- 7 Sec. 264.1251. SUMMER INTERNSHIP PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The
- 8 department shall establish a summer internship pilot program that
- 9 provides foster children with the opportunity to develop marketable
- 10 job skills and obtain professional work experience through a summer
- 11 internship with a participating business, nonprofit organization,
- 12 or governmental entity.
- 13 (b) The department may collaborate with other state
- 14 agencies, as appropriate, to establish the pilot program. The
- 15 pilot program may be implemented in more than one department
- 16 region.

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- 17 (c) The department may enter into an agreement with one or
- 18 more entities described by Subsection (a) to allow the entity to
- 19 award internships to children who participate in the pilot program.
- 20 Internships provided under the pilot program may be paid or unpaid.
- 21 (d) Not later than April 1 of each year, the department
- 22 <u>shall select foster children or former foster children who are 15</u>
- 23 years of age or older to participate in the pilot program. Each
- 24 child participating in the pilot program shall enter into an

- 1 agreement with the organization awarding the internship and the
- 2 department relating to the terms of the child's internship.
- 3 (e) The department shall complete an evaluation of the pilot
- 4 program not later than the second anniversary of the date the
- 5 program begins.
- 6 (f) The department shall submit a report on the evaluation
- 7 of the pilot program to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and
- 8 the speaker of the house of representatives. The report must
- 9 include:
- 10 (1) the number of children who participated in the
- 11 pilot program;
- 12 (2) the location and type of internships provided
- 13 under the pilot program; and
- 14 (3) details of the department's efforts to recruit
- 15 eligible children to participate in the pilot program.
- 16 (g) The executive commissioner may adopt rules necessary to
- 17 implement this section.
- 18 (h) This section expires September 1, 2021.
- 19 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2018, the Department of
- 20 Family and Protective Services shall establish the pilot program
- 21 required by Section 264.1251, Family Code, as added by this Act.
- 22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
- 23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
- 24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
- 25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 26 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.